than the rate at which it was purchased by the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Steps to check illegal activities on Indo-Pak border

838. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps being taken by Government to prevent illegal entry, smuggling of arms, by terrorists and clandestine narcotics trade from across the border of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Border Security Force which is guarding the Indo-Pakistan border is constantly on vigil. Surveillance has been intensified to the extent possible by various measures like intensified patrolling, induction of additional force on border, reduction of distance between border outposts by establishing new out-posts, utilisation of special equipment like portable search lights, hand-held torches, binoculars, etc. Wire obstacles are being raised at certain strategic points on Indo-Pakistan border.

Environment protection schemes

839. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes being undertaken in the country to protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance;

(b) whether any new schemes were launched in the country on June 5, 1988, on "The World Environment Day";

(c) whether it is a fact that protests are being staged by environmentalists in certain areas against the setting up of new irrigation and hydro-electric projects on the ground that they tend to destroy the environment; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The Government has undertaken a number of schemes as given below to protect the environment and maintain the ecological balance:

1. Schemes for soil conseravtion, wasteland development, protection of watershed areas, desert-development, hill development and prevention of water logging, salinity and alkalinity for protection of land.

2. Schemes for conservation of both ground and surface water, flood control, prevention and control of water pollution and cleaning up the river Ganga under the Ganga Action Plan.

3. Prevention and control of pollution of air.

4. Survey and protection of forests, afforestation programmes, development of non-conventional energy sources and schemes for substitution of wood.

5. Wildlife preservation through survey and protection.

6. Environmental Impact Assessment of development projects and prescription of conditions to minimise the environmental damage before the projects are sanctioned.

7. Conservation of marine ecosystems.

8. Management of wetlands and mangroves.

9. Research and development.

10. Education and training.

11. Information and awareness.

12. Strengthening legislations for prevention and control of pollution, industrial safety and management of hazardous substances.

(b) A new gallery on 'conservation' was added in the National Museum of National History, New Delhi on the occasion of World Environment Day, on June 5, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government assesses the environmental impacts of the proposed projects and clears them, if with suitable safeguards and conditions, they are environmentally compatible.

Improvement in export performance

840. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the Country's exports during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the export performance showed an improvement last year as compared to the previous years;

(c) if so, by what percentage; and

(d) what steps are being taken to further improve the export performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) The details of exports during the last three years are as under:—

Year	Exports (Rs. in crores)
1985-86	10895
1986-87(R)	12569
1987-88(P)	15719

(R: Revised P: Provisional)

Source DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(b) to (c) According to the provisional figures India's exports during 1987-88 amounted to Rs. 15719 crores as compared to the provisional figures of Rs. 12550 crores during 1986-87 thereby showing an increase of 25.3 per cent.

(d) Government have already taken a series of initiatives designed to generate surpluses for export, to induce the production of goods internationally contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make exports more profitable.

रेशम का निर्यात

841. **श्री राम अवधेश सिंह :** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेशम बोर्ड की नई नीतियों के कारण रेशम के निर्यात में बाधायें आ रही हैं और उनसे देश को करोड़ों रूपये की विदेशी मुद्रा की हानि हो रही है ;

(ख) क्या निर्यात की जाने वाली वस्तुओं की गुणवत्ता की जांच की जटिल प्रक्रिया से अनावश्यक विलम्ब होता है और विलम्ब शुल्क देना होता है ;

(ग) क्या हस्त शिल्प विकास आयुक्त ने सरकार से प्राकृतिक रेशम उत्पादों के निर्यात की प्रक्रिया को सरल बनाने की सिफारिश की है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री राम निवास मिर्धा) : (क) जी नहीं । प्राकृतिक रेशम की वस्तुओं के निर्यात से हुई विदेशी मुद्रा की आय 1985-86 में 159.82 करोड़ रू० के स्तर से काफी बढ़कर 1987-88 में 254.96 करोड़ रू० हो गई ।